



# Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building ■ (202) 225-4527

<http://edworkforce.house.gov/edwatch>

May 21, 2001

## State Education Leaders Oppose Anti-Testing Amendment

"We have become aware of a dangerous amendment to gut the testing and accountability portions of H.R. 1, which will be offered on the floor by Reps. Barney Frank (D-MA) and Peter Hoekstra (R-MI)," the Education Leaders Council (ELC) said today. "This amendment would strike the provisions in your bill that would ensure that every child be tested each year in grades 3 through 8 as proposed by President Bush."

"ELC members strongly believe that meaningful accountability requires clear and measurable standards, and annual assessment of student learning at the state level. That is why we support testing children in grades 3-8. Federal education policy should focus on accountability for results in student achievement rather than compliance with federal regulations and programs," ELC continued. "In exchange for this freedom and flexibility, state and local officials should be held accountable for delivering results for children."

"We can not afford to lose this historic opportunity to transform the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and to assure that all children benefit from an unapologetic focus on high expectations and accountability for results," ELC concluded.

ELC includes the state education leaders of Arizona, Georgia, Texas and other major states and is one of the nation's leading voices in the drive for real education reform.

### Message of the Day

**Make no mistake about it:  
Testing is the centerpiece of  
President Bush's education plan.**

- ❑ *A vote for Hoekstra/Frank is a vote to dismantle the most fundamental component of the President's plan to inject accountability into federal education spending.*
- ❑ *If you don't test, you can't measure. If you don't measure, you can't be sure students are learning.*
- ❑ *With annual testing and appropriate reports to parents and teachers, problems can be found before it is too late to fix them.*

### DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- The Business Roundtable found that 83 percent of parents and 83 percent of the public agree that tests are very helpful for parents to see how well their own children are doing.
- A poll conducted for the Educational Testing Service (ETS) found that 76 percent of the American public supports the Bush plan to require states to annually test students in grades 3-8 in reading and math.
- Testing provides parents, teachers, and policymakers with the information they need to determine whether each child is truly making annual academic progress.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"These tests do measure learning. Their purpose is to decide how learning can be improved. The goal is to build a foundation, not to find fault."* **Gov. Jim Geringer (R-Wyoming)**